

FOOTBALL superstar Gary Lineker sent a message of hope yesterday to Wycombe Wanderers striker Tim Langford, whose three-year-old son is

fighting leukaemia.

Little Adam Langford was diagnosed three weeks ago.



Gary Lineker

Gary, whose son George is recovering from the disease, yesterday faxed a message to the Bucks Free Press, saying: "I was very sorry to learn of the illness that has affected Adam and I know this will be a particularly distressing time for the family."

"I hope they can manage to find the strength from somewhere to see them through the ordeal of this treatment, and keep my fingers crossed that there will be a happy outcome to this."

Tim replied: "To have a message from someone as well known as Gary is nice."

Tim, 29, and his wife Julie, 28, were devastated at the news of Adam's illness.

But the couple are optimistic that he will recover. "We hope and pray that he is among the majority who are being cured. Doctors have told us that he has a 60/70 per cent chance of recovery," said Tim.

Tim and Julie are indebted to doctors for their help and support. Now, together with family and friends, they are setting up a fund named after their son to raise money for the ward where he is being treated.

"Adam is not the first person to



Living with a nightmare: Tim, Julie and little Adam face up to the fight against leukaemia.

Picture by Mark Sammons

have leukaemia and certainly won't be the last," commented Tim.

The former postman, who joined Wycombe in March 1993, is also deeply appreciative of the backing of the club's fans, who have sent messages of support.

Adam is about to go into hospital

for the most gruelling phase of chemotherapy treatment, during which his hair will fall out and he will suffer sickness and diarrhoea.

Tim and Julie learnt of his illness during a check-up. "It was absolute devastation when we found out. Your world just falls apart. We

stood there during the first night watching Adam and just cried."

Tim, who lives in the Midlands, returned to first team action for Wycombe on Tuesday, where he was watched by Adam and Julie.

"When I was warming up, I looked up and he was laughing. He

does not understand how poorly he is," he said.

● Donations for the Adam Langford Leukaemia Appeal can be sent to Wycombe Wanderers. The money will go to the Birmingham Children's Hospital, where Adam receives treatment.